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WILSON ON ARMED MERCHANTMEN

Attitude Of American Government Officially Defined

Has A Direct Bearing On The Submarine Issue

Washington, April 27.—The attitude of the United States toward armed merchantmen in neutral ports and on the high seas is defined in a statement made public by direction of President Wilson. The statement was originally intended as a circular note to the other powers and is dated March 25, 1916.

The feature of the statement is its direct bearing on the submarine issue with Germany. It takes the position that a belligerent is not justified in presuming that an armed merchantman encountered on the high seas is of a warlike character until conclusive evidence has shown it to be. The presence of armament on the ship is not considered enough and in absence of conclusive evidence to the contrary, the belligerent, the United States contends, must act on the assumption that the armed merchantman is of a peaceful character. Only one means is open to a belligerent to conclusively prove the warlike character of an armed merchantman, that is by visit and search.

The statement reiterates the contention of the United States that an armed merchantman exercise its right of self-protection, either by flight or by resistance. "The right to capture and the right to prevent capture are recognized as equally justifiable."

But the statement points out that warships under international law must give merchant ships an opportunity to surrender or to submit to visit and search before attempting to seize them by force. If the merchantman flees or resists the warship may exercise force to compel surrender.

A feature of the statement is the fact that the United States takes the position that an armed merchantman of belligerent nationality loses its status as a peaceable merchant ship if the captain is under orders to resist capture under all circumstances. Secretary of State Lansing takes the view that they deprive the captain of his discretionary power to resist or

surrender, and thereby change the status of the ship. Americans are warned that they travel on vessels "possessing a status tainted with a hostile purpose" at their own risk, and that they may not expect immunity other than that accorded persons who are on board a warship.

In view of the German charge that British armed merchantmen are under admiralty orders to resist capture in all circumstances, the position defined by the United States in this respect is regarded as particularly important. Secretary Lansing has made inquiry of the British government whether the admiralty orders make a resistance compulsory. The inquiry to Great Britain was sent about ten days ago. No reply has yet been received.

INFANTRY ATTACK CHECKED BY FRENCH

Artillery Activity Noted Over Much of the Battle Front.

Paris, April 27.—The only infantry attack attempted by the Germans was in the Senones sector, in Lorraine. This attempt was stopped by the French fire curtain.

Heavy artillery bombardment over much of the front and unusual activity on the part of French aviators were the distinguishing features of the day. French batteries bombarded German positions in the Dornaise valley in Champagne, and in the sectors of Hill 335, Vanquois and the Bois Cheppy, in the Argonne. The artillery on both sides was active about Avocourt, Hill 304 and Monteville, on the western bank of the Meuse, in the Verdun sector, and to a lesser degree on the eastern bank of the river. Varangeville and Lunville, southeast of Nancy, were bombarded by a German long range gun.

A bombarding squadron of French aeroplanes dropped bombs on railway stations, steel works and other points of military advantage in the general region of Verdun, the steel works at Jeuf and Homécourt, southeast of Prieux, and the railway stations at Ercueille, Contans, Pierrepont and Mezieres being included among the points bombarded. At the same time another squadron was bombarding German munitions depots in the region of Roze.

FOOT CAUGHT IN SWITCH

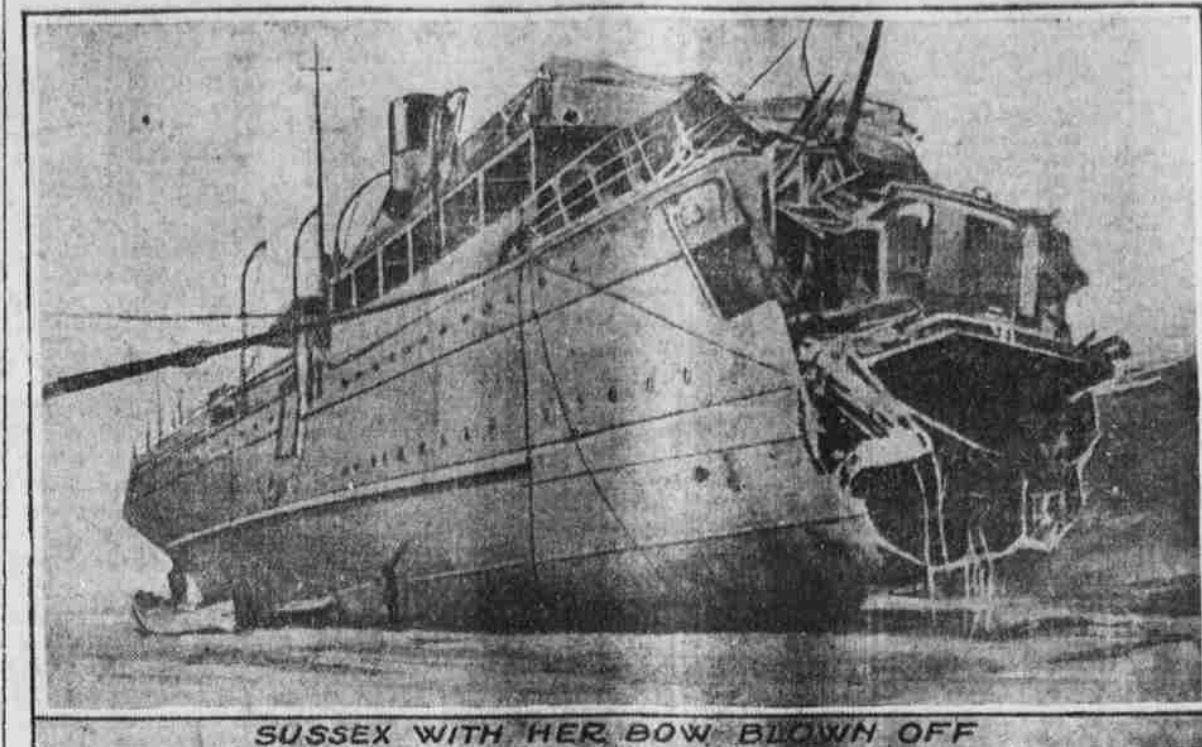
Girl Saved From Frightful Accident by Watchman's Vigilance.

Vicksburg, Mich., April 27.—With her foot tightly caught in a switch on the tracks of the G. R. and I. railroad, Miss Dale Stratton was saved from a frightful accident by the timely discovery of her plight by Andrew Johnson, the crossing tender. A passenger train was rapidly approaching. Running down the track, Johnson flagged the train and it stopped within a few feet of where the girl was held a prisoner on the track. It was several minutes before her foot could be released.

Another Zeppelin Raid.

London, April 27.—Zeppelins made their third raid last night on the English coast within three days. German airships are reported to have appeared over Kent about 10:30 last night, but on account of a mist blanketing the east coast, it is believed that they withdrew without dropping many bombs.

SUSSEX EXPLOSION BLEW AWAY WHOLE BOW OF CHANNEL STEAMER



SUSSEX WITH HER BOW BLOWN OFF

The accompanying picture shows the channel steamer Sussex after the explosion on March 24, which killed or injured about 150 passengers, among the injured being several Americans. The Sussex was beached at Boulogne and the great damage done to her by the explosion, which the United States government says

was caused by a torpedo from a German submarine, is seen in the picture. All her forward parts were blown away as far aft as the bridge and only her watertight bulkheads kept her afloat. This is the first photograph showing the extent of the damage to the Sussex to reach this country. The German official report on the attack

by a U boat on an "unknown steamer" the same day, hour and place that the attack on the Sussex was made, said that the forward part of the steamer as far aft as the bridge was blown away. The Cologne Gazette said a few days ago that the Sussex case is still unclear up.

ARRANGING CONFERENCE TO AVERT STRIKE

Chicago, April 27.—Representatives of railroads in the United States and the chief executives of each of the four brotherhoods of railway employees which are threatening a general strike, met today in a preliminary conference in the offices of the General Managers' association here to arrange for conferences between the employees' committee and a conference committee of the railroads. The ultimatum of the employees de-

manding a written reply to the revision of the schedules handed the railroads several weeks ago expires Saturday. However, it is stated by officials of the General Managers' association that practically every railway in the country has already replied to those demands. Refusal of the demands of the employees has been universal with the railroads, it is said. Neither side has shown any disposition to arbitrate.

WESTINGHOUSE PLANTS CLOSED INDEFINITELY

Pittsburgh, April 27.—With approximately 30,000 employees on a strike, every Westinghouse plant located in the Turtle Creek valley was closed down for an indefinite period. Clashes between the strikers and the guards were frequent in the strike zone. In many instances guards were attacked, but no serious injuries resulted.

The list of persons now on strike throughout the Pittsburgh district approaches 120,000. Of this number 54,600 are employees of the allied Westinghouse interests and the Pittsburgh Coal company. The remainder are scattered among industrial plants in Allegheny county.

MAYOR ENJOINED

Fremont, O., April 27.—Judge Garver granted an injunction to W. S. Kern, A. A. Shipman and Willis Devalt, civil service commissioners of Bellevue, to prevent Mayor H. C. Auerand from discharging them and appointing Frank Burrows, W. E. Rice and Frank Cooper in their places.

MAY FIRE OFFICIALS

Newark, O., April 27.—The local election board is debating what action shall be taken regarding the failure of election officials in North precinct, Ha-over township, which made a record in the primary by failing to register a single vote. The precinct officials probably will be discharged.

UNEARTHED GOLD COIN

Lancaster, O., April 27.—While plowing up his backyard in the village of Amanda, ten miles southwest of here, Homer Hedges unearthed a tin can which, when opened, was found to contain about \$500 in gold. It is said that an aged couple who lived on the same premises years ago buried the money one night and later were unable to locate it.

HEIR TO FORTUNE

Postoria, O., April 27.—John H. Roelof, representative for a credit insurance house in this city, is heir to \$150,000 left him by a millionaire brother, Henry Roelof, who died recently in South America.

ORGANIZATION MEN WIN ON BOTH TICKETS

Late Returns of Presidential Primaries in Ohio.

Columbus, April 27.—Late returns of the presidential primaries served to change the early returns only in so far as the relative positions of several of the candidates for delegates-at-large to the national conventions are concerned and to confirm the fact that the organization slates in both parties were elected.

On the Democratic side belated returns reversed the relative positions of former Governors Campbell and Harmon, showing that the latter, instead of Campbell, will run second to former Governor Cox. Figures indicate that Harmon may be a close competitor with Cox for first place on the ticket.

Tabulations from figures in the secretary of state's office for 3,049 of the 5,570 precincts of the state and representing 42 counties, with the larger ones practically complete, show these Democratic results: Cox, 39,573; Harmon, 36,618; Campbell, 35,695; Pomerenne, 29,908; and Monnett, defeated, 17,588.

Republican tabulations for 3,544 precincts, representing 48 counties, are: Harding, 78,330; Willis, 69,658; Procter, 53,536; Sullivan, 52,260; Gilfin, 39,612; Tyler, 25,143; and Glaser, 23,867. It is believed that later returns will serve to better the showing of Harmon on the Democratic ticket and Willis on the Republican.

Cox easily led the Democratic showing in all the populous counties, showing especial strength in Cuyahoga, Hamilton and Franklin counties.

That F. S. Monnett's strength as an anti-Wilson candidate for delegates-at-large lay chiefly with the German population is shown by the fact that he ran particularly strong in the South Side wards of Columbus and in Cincinnati wards.

TO THE POINT

Henry Morgenthau has resigned as ambassador to Turkey to help in the Democratic campaign.

Edward Glennon, Rhode Island pen convict, will be brought to New York to prove his story that he helped bury the body of Dorothy Arnold, missing heiress.

Harry S. Stokes was shot and killed in his office at Nashville, Tenn. He was attorney for the taxpayers in the suit to oust city officials, who are charged with corruption.

Americans Ordered to Leave.

Torreon, Mexico, April 27.—American Consul Coen at Durango City has advised all Americans to leave the city and is himself considering the advisability of going to the border. A serious situation has been caused through the violent anti-American agitation which has been carried on by the Durango newspapers since the American soldiers and Mexicans clashed at Parral.

TO SINK TROOP TRANSPORTS

Irish Waters Are Swarming With German Submarines.

FOSTERING DUBLIN REBELLION

Sir Roger Casement said to have made several daring and successful trips to the Irish coast—Rebellion Reported Spreading Through All the Four Provinces of Ireland. Late Developments.

Amsterdam, April 27.—The entire Irish sea and the Atlantic waters to the west and south of Ireland are swarming with German submarines, whose sole task is to sink every troop transport destined for Ireland to quell the rebellion.

It became known here that the visit, which Sir Roger Casement paid to the Irish coast on the night of April 21, and which resulted in his arrest by the British, and the sinking of the German auxiliary with which he had come, was not the first visit the famous Irish nobleman paid to his native shore since he has been in Germany. Despite the fact that there was a price of \$25,000 on his head, Sir Roger, it is reported, had previously made several daring trips to the Irish coast, all of which were successful.

A prominent Scandinavian who has just returned from Berlin, where he has close commercial and literary connections, says that, in spite of their aggressive language, most of the German newspapers and a considerable number of the leading politicians are convinced that Germany will not go so far as to permit a diplomatic rupture with America. They declare that the Kaiser will make a great effort to prevent a break. German public opinion, which at the beginning was furious against America, is said to have become considerably calmer, and no more warlike talk is heard on the streets or in private circles.

British Troops in Control.

London, April 27.—British regulars from Belfast and England are now in Dublin and have recaptured from the revolutionary faction several important centers which the members of the Sinn Fein party and their adherents had occupied. These include St. Stephen's Green and Liberty hall. The number of insurgents killed is placed at 11.

FIGHTING CONTINUES

Greater Part of Dublin Reported Held by the Rebels.

New York, April 27.—A secret code cablegram just received here by circles sympathizing with the Sinn Fein, the organization which is leading the rebellion in Dublin, makes the following assertion: "Violent fighting continues in Dublin. The greater part of the city is firmly held by the rebels."

Another cipher message repeated the statements made Tuesday that Lord Wimborne, lord lieutenant of Ireland; his under-secretary, Mr. Nathan; General Friend, commander in chief of the British troops in Ireland, and his whole staff, as well as several hundred British soldiers, are prisoners in the hands of the rebels. They are held, it is stated, as hostages for Sir Roger Casement. The same message declares that uprising have broken out in other parts of Ireland and is spreading through all the four provinces.

Mrs. Rogers Held Insane.

New York, April 27.—The jury in the case of Mrs. Ida Sniffen Rogers, charged with the murder of her two children, brought in a verdict of not guilty, on the grounds of insanity. Her defense was that she was temporarily insane, because Lorlys Elton Rogers, the father of the children, had not divorced the woman then his wife. Rogers has since been divorced and has married the defendant.

Germans Capture Crew.

Berlin, April 27.—The German naval forces which bombarded Lowestoft sank the steamer King Stephen and captured her crew. It was officially announced here. This is the same steamer that refused to rescue the crew of the Zeppelin L-17, which dropped into the North sea. It was also announced that a destroyer and another scout boat aside from the King Stephen were sunk.

Finds Bichloride Antidote.

Cincinnati, April 27.—In the remedy, calcium sulphite, given through the veins, grain for grain of the poison taken, it is believed that Dr. J. H. Wilms of this city has found a sure antidote for bichloride of mercury poisoning.

AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED

The Government Of Berlin Seeks Compromise

Can Not Submit Without Reservation To Wilson's Demands.

DELAYING ANSWER TO NOTE

Count Von Bernstorff of the Opinion That a Satisfactory Compromise Can Be Reached—Overconfidence In Satisfactory Adjustment Not Justified. Says Lansing—Wilson Confers With Stone.

Washington, April 27.—The veil of secrecy shrouding the submarine crisis has at last sufficiently lifted to permit a general idea of the present status of the situation.

Germany, it is authoritatively learned, feels it can not submit without reservation to President Wilson's demands, and is therefore delaying its answer to the American note, while seeking a middle ground of compromise. Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, believes a satisfactory compromise can be reached. Secretary of State Lansing apparently does not share the ambassador's optimism.

The position which Germany now takes aims at deferring a categorical reply to the president's demand that the imperial government "immediately declare and effect an abandonment of present methods of submarine warfare," until the two governments by means of exchanges of views can come to an understanding as to whether the reply which Germany submits would be acceptable to the United States. Count Von Bernstorff is understood to have cabled suggestions to Berlin which he believes might aid in reaching this agreement.

Ambassador Gerard at Berlin reported to Secretary of State Lansing on a conference he had with Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg. The impression which this report made on the state department was apparently not altogether satisfactory. It was authoritatively stated that it had not changed the situation in the slightest degree. There is so far no indication that President Wilson or Secretary Lansing are regarding the crisis less serious than it was the day the American note was dispatched to Berlin. Plain intimations were given out at the state department that overconfidence in a satisfactory adjustment was not justified. Optimistic press reports stating that Ambassador Gerard had reassured the department were emphatically denied by Secretary Lansing.

President Wilson conferred with Senator Stone, chairman of the senate foreign relation committee. What transpired at the conference was not divulged, but the president now understands there may be considerable further delay before Germany is ready to meet the issue. Count Von Bernstorff said that he considered it very doubtful if a reply from Germany could come this week or early next week. Ambassador Gerard is understood to have been informed to the same effect by the German chancellor.

To Supplant Strikers.

Tiffin, O., April 27.—The situation at the plant of the Webster Manufacturing company, where a strike is in progress, became serious when about 100 men from Chicago and Cleveland arrived to take the places of the strikers. The plant is guarded by a double set of guards.

ATTEMPTS SUICIDE

Massillon, O., April 27.—Fourteen-year-old Charles Piccerello, a school-boy and native American, made four attempts to commit suicide by drinking a disinfectant he found in a livery stable, because, he told Chief of Police E. M. Ertle, he had been taunted by his schoolmates for having Italian foster parents. Physicians said the poison was not strong enough to cause death.

MADE OWN BURIAL ROBE

Findlay, O., April 27.—Following a premonition several weeks ago that death was near Mrs. Joseph Winemiller, sixty-nine, made her burial robe and selected her minister, his text and pallbearers. Yesterday she died. She had been ill only six weeks.

PUNCTURES A BOOM

Washington, April 27.—Numerous reports connecting Senator Harding's name with the presidential nomination drew from the senator a statement swatting his boom as hard as any man could. He says there is "nothing to it," and that his real friends know he would not wish to be considered in that connection even if Ohio had no other candidate.